



Dairy Nutrient Management Program 2014 Grant Proposals and Awards

The Dairy Nutrient Management Program issued a call for grant proposals this past February. Nine great proposals were submitted and two were ultimately funded. All of the grant proposals addressed subjects that are pertinent to dairy operators. Grant monies are collected from civil penalties assessed for RCW 90.64 violations.

Grant proposals selected for funding for this year included:

1) Project Name: Development and Implementation of a Nutrient Management Training Curriculum for Dairy Producers across Washington State
Project Lead: Nichole Embertson, Whatcom Conservation District, Lynden
Project Cost: \$17,453
Project Start Date: May 1, 2014
Project End Date: April 30, 2015

Project Summary

There are approximately 415 dairy operations in Washington State, all of which are required to have a Dairy Nutrient Management Plan (DNMP). A large portion of this DNMP is the creation and implementation of an annual plan to properly utilize manure nutrients without causing any impact to surface or ground water. This project will develop and implement a voluntary statewide curriculum and training event aimed at educating dairy producers on proper nutrient management principles. The outcome of the training will be creation of a customized manure nutrient application plan for their farm. Two training events will be held in Whatcom and Yakima Counties in January 2015. Using feedback from the events, the curriculum will be evaluated and revised as necessary to ensure its effectiveness. The results of this trial can be used as a model for a nutrient management certification process for Washington State.

2) Project Name: Statewide Needs Assessment and Outreach Material Development for Conservation District Planners Assisting Dairy Producers with Dairy Nutrient Management Plan Implementation
Project Lead: Karen Hills, King Conservation District, Renton
Project Cost: \$17,750
Project Start Date: June 1, 2014
Project End Date: September 1, 2015

Project Summary

This project addresses gaps in the materials available for Washington's Conservation District (CD) staff to effectively assist dairy producers in meeting State water quality objectives. The project includes development of statewide outreach materials for CD dairy planners to respond quickly and effectively to WSDA referrals and successfully assist dairy producers implement conservation practices associated with their Dairy Nutrient Management Plans. The project involves three phases: 1) Assessment of gaps in available materials for use by CD staff in assisting dairy producers done through interviews of CD and WSDA staff and surveying dairy producers. 2) Development of outreach materials for CD planners and producers. 3) Introduction of developed outreach materials to CD planners through both in-person and electronic training forums.

We also received the proposals listed below, but were unable to fund them.

From Tova Tillinghast, Underwood Conservation District / 509-493-1936

- 1) Trout Lake Fecal Coliform Sampling

From Kelly FitzGerld, University of Washington / 206-543-4043

- 1) Livestock Chemical Tracer Sampling Program

From Jim Jensen, Washington State University Energy Program / 350-956-2083

- 1) Value-Added Market Research for Dairy Nutrients
- 2) Exploring the Business Case for Small Net Metered Dairy Digesters

From Joe Harrison, Washington State University / 253-445-4638

- 1) Shallow Ground Water Nitrate as Affected by Converting Land from Grass to Corn
- 2) Waste to Worth Conference hosted by the National Livestock and Poultry Learning Center

From Andy Barry, Washington State University / 253-445-4588

- 1) Dairy manure composting education in western Washington